GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1332
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2001
REVIEW OF PDS
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have effected/propose to effect some changes in the policy pertaining to eligibility etc., under Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) and (b) Govt. has initiated the following policy changes under the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country.

(i) Allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System(TPDS) has beendoubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family per month at 50% of economic cost and allocation for APL families has been maintained at economic cost w.e.f. 1.4.2000.

(ii) Foodgrains under TPDS are being allotted toStates/UTs for families living below poverty line (BPL) based on population projection of Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of 1995.

(iii) States/UTs have been authorised to lift rice and wheat against APL allocationat APL rates i.e., 100% of the economic cost or open market sale rates whichever are lower provided that it will not be less than levy price of rice for the State.

(iv) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana launched by the Prime Minister on the 25th December, 2000 contemplates identification of one crore poorest of the poor families and providing them with foodgrains @ 25 kg. per family per month at highly subsidised rates - Rs. 2 a kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 a kg for rice.

(v) With a view to restructuring of PDS for levy sugar, the Government has decidedthat w.e.f. 1st February, 2001, levy sugar supply under PDS will be restricted toBPL families only except in case of North Eastern States, Hilly States and Island Territories where the existing arrangements will continue. The Government have also decided that the population to be covered for supply of sugar under PDS would be on the basis of projected population as on1st March, 2000. The per capita norm has been enhanced from 425 gms to 500 grams per month so that the BPL beneficiaries would get benefited further.